HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Winchester students take a trip to Guatemala

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

May 23, 2025 . 1:00 PM — 2 min read

Winchester High School students Danry Njawa and Joel Aryee painting while in Guatemala as part of a School of the World program. COURTESY PHOTO/ABC WINCHESTER

Last month three students who participate in Winchester's A Bet program decided to go to Guatemala as part of a School of the Wo

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program.

Joel Aryee, Danry Njawa and Eyitayo (Tayo) Owolabi mixed cement, painted the outside of a school building and created two murals.

“Last year we helped with a kindergarten playground in Honduras,” says Aryee, a Winchester High School junior.

Joel Aryee, Danry Njawa and Eyitayo (Tayo) Owolabi went go to Guatemala as part of a School of the World program. COURTESY PHOTO/ABC WINCHESTER

“In Guatemala, we painted a mural about the ocean and one about the solar system,” says WHS sophomore Njawa. “Kids there go to school through sixth grade and people are trying to get them to attend high school.”

He adds that they’d need a bus to get there.

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"And the nearest hospital is an hour away," he says.

Owolabi says, "The first day we went early, did some work and then in the afternoon we visited families—it's a way to get to know how they live. We made tortillas with them, fed their chickens and pigs. We found out there's no electricity, they have dirt floors, and the houses are made of mud."

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"But in Honduras," Aryee says, "some houses have solar power — for a single light bulb. The mom in the family I visited wove hats in bulk, and she'd sell them. She'd get 20 quetzales for a dozen — the equivalent of 70 U.S. cents."

Njawa says that in Guatemala the villagers have to walk an hour to get their corn ground. When asked why he signed up, he says, "I heard about it from a senior who told me it was fun and a good experience."

Owolabi adds they were among eleven Winchester High School students to go.

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Tayo Owolabi with students in Honduras. COURTESY PHOTO/ABC WINCHESTER

Where does the money come from? The scholars raise money for the trip, and Hamilton Ho, a volunteer at ABC, says the Crawford Memorial Church's men's bible group gives $3,000 to each of the three students.

Volunteer Chris Chiavelli adds the students raise money through GoFundMe.

Aryee says the group stayed in a hotel about an hour and a half from the school.

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"On the last day, they had a dedication ceremony where the mayor gave a speech, and all about how School of the World students helped," he says.

Aryee encourages students to join.

"It opens up your eyes to other worlds. You take things for granted such as running water," he says. "They don't have much, but they make the most of it. It makes you feel grateful."

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On a cold and blustery day, two post-graduate Winchester High School students and others stood outside the Stop & Shop inviting folks to buy luminary kits as part of the Unite with Light event planned for Sunday, Dec. 14. The successful program

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Helpers Among Us - Alisa Dong needs your help with Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alisa Dong has only lived in town for about four y[illegible] already immersed in helpi[illegible] she wants residents to help [illegible] Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-

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was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who

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insecure residents. A member of the town's Family Action Network (FAN), Dong is its

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Helpers Among Us — Coaches volunteer to bring on the cheer

You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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Helpers Among Us - Patti Reilly wants your children's clothes

Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a half ago, she's already discovered the generosity of Winchester residents. That's why she and her husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in "gently used children's clothing.

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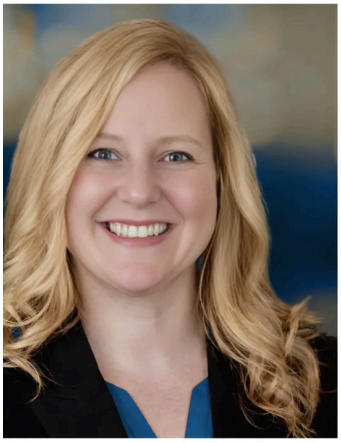

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NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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